

Mr. Waters writes in a recent letter: "In collecting for my herbarium, I always got as many different forms of a species as possible. Forking fronds interested me, but not as much as normal ones showing intangible and indescribable variations in leaf cutting." In this connection, it may be added that in the Boston fern series of varieties occur forms distinguished by reflexed pinnae, by blunt tips, by different colored stipes and rachides, by different shaped bases of the pinnae, by the brittleness of the leaf stalks, et al. Such differences remain constantly distinguishable throughout years of cultivation and vegetative reproduction of the varieties concerned.

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN.

A LIST OF FERNS FOUND IN WOODSTOCK, CONN.—The three *Osmundas*; *Botrychium virginianum*, *B. obliquum* (common locally, with a fair sprinkling of forma *dissectum*), *B. matricariaefolium* (one station) and *B. simplex* (one station); *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (one station, recently discovered); *Pteris aquilina*; *Woodsia obtusa*; *Polystichum acrostichoides*; *Dryopteris Thelypteris*, *D. noveboracensis*, *D. simulata*, *D. marginalis*, *D. cristata*, and *D. spinulosa* and its variety *intermedia*; *Asplenium platyneuron* and *A. Trichomanes*; *Athyrium acrostichoides* and *A. Filix-femina*; *Polypodium vulgare*; *Phegopteris polypodioides* and *P. hexagonoptera*; *Cystopteris fragilis*; *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*; *Adiantum pedatum*; *Onoclea sensibilis* and *O. Struthiopteris* (one station).

Woodsia ilvensis is found a short distance outside of Woodstock's borders. *Onoclea Struthiopteris* seems to be extremely rare here, but is found outside the town limits.

The first *Botrychium obliquum* I was privileged to find was a *dissectum* form and was growing by our front

wall. It was not only the largest of its kind that I ever found, but was also the most finely dissected. It was fertile. I recently made the acquaintance of *Ophioglossum vulgatum* in its favorite haunt, a wet, mossy meadow.

Botrychium simplex has not before been reported from northeastern Connecticut. The height of this fern varies from small specimens of but an inch or even less in height (but fertile) to larger ones of from six to eight inches. It appears in early May, about two or three weeks later than *B. matricariaefolium*, and, of course, the spores ripen correspondingly later. The one station was a side-hill or bank, with a small brook at the base, in deciduous woods with a rich soil. An area of about fifteen square feet contained probably thirty to forty specimens. A few more were discovered not far from this colony and it is possible that a painstaking search among the dead leaves would have revealed still more. Other ferns growing near were *Polystichum acrostichoides*, *Athyrium acrostichoides*, *Adiantum pedatum*, and *Botrychium virginianum*.

Both *Botrychium matricariaefolium* and *B. simplex* usually wither and die before the middle of summer, the stipes appearing to decay first near the base, thus weakening them and causing the ferns to recline.—
ALAN W. UPHAM.

FERNS IN THE NEWS.—Every city has one or more newspapers which show a special interest in natural history to the extent of publishing frequently articles on plants and animals. In a recent issue of Science, Mr. Cosgrove, Sunday Editor of the New York World, wrote of the interest in science taken by his paper, and the care exercised to see that the articles should be scientifically accurate. This care for accuracy is really